

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

The attached sheet(s) of drawings includes changes to Figs. 2B, 5A and 5B. No new matter has been added.

Attachment: Replacement sheets

REMARKS

By this Amendment, claim 10 has been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-10 are pending in the present application. The amendment to claim 10 is to correct an inadvertent typographical error in the dependency thereof.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 10, but respectfully submits that each of claims 1, 2 and 4-9 are also allowable over the prior art of record for the reasons set forth herein.

The objection to the drawings is noted. In response, Figs. 5A and 5B have been amended to include the designation of these figures as “prior art” and Fig. 2B has been amended to correct the reference number pointing to the notch. No new matter has been added. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner’s comments regarding the May 17, 2006 Information Disclosure Statement are noted. In response, Applicants respectfully submit herewith a revised PTO/SB/08 form listing the exact same references along with their respective publication dates. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner consider and make of record these references. Should the Examiner require an additional copy of any of these references, he is respectfully requested to contact Applicants’ undersigned attorney.

Claims 1, 2 and 4-9 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,781,476 to Tsunoda et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Among the limitations of independent claims 1 and 7 which are neither disclosed nor suggested in the prior art of record is a directional coupler having a grounding electrode formed on a first surface of a substrate, and a coupling line [portion] on a second surface of the substrate, “wherein the grounding electrode includes a notch [portion] opposite to the coupling line [portion].”

The Office Action contends that Tsunoda et al. discloses notches formed in the ground electrode. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Tsunoda et al. specifically states that the “ground electrode 7 is formed on the surface of the dielectric substrate 3 which is opposite to the surface thereof having the coupling line 5 formed thereon.” Tsunoda et al. at col. 9, lines 4-6. In other words, the ground electrode 7 of Tsunoda et al. covers the entire surface of the dielectric substrate 3 opposite the coupling line 5.

Nowhere within Tsunoda et al. is it disclosed or even remotely suggested that this ground electrode 7 has a notch, let alone a notch opposite a coupling line. In fact, inasmuch as Tsunoda et al. teaches that the ground electrode 7 covers the entire surface of the dielectric substrate 3 opposite the coupling line 5, it teaches away from the present invention as defined in independent claims 1 and 7. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent claims 1 and 7 patentably distinguish over the prior art of record.

Claims 2 and 4-6 each depend directly from independent claim 1 and include all of the limitations found therein. Claims 8-9 each depend directly from independent claim 7 and include all of the limitations found therein. Each of these dependent claims include additional limitations which, in combination with the limitations of the claims from which they depend, are neither disclosed nor suggested in the art of record. Accordingly, claims 2, 4-6 and 8-9 are likewise patentable.

In view of the foregoing, favorable consideration of the amendment to claim 10, and allowance of the present application with claims 1-10 is respectfully and earnestly solicited.

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Attachments